

textbook publishing, freedom of information, election campaigning and political handbills, freedom of advertising, and other past and present issues. Author Lawrence Ward Beer includes studies of relevant Japanese court decisions, their sociopolitical environments, and their constitutional development; he also places the legal discussion in a broader framework with background on modern Japanese social conditions and characteristic modes of thought and behavior. 414 p., \$50 from Kodansha International/USA, 10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022 (0-87011-632-0, 83-48288).

## Women

**Landmark work revised for the '80s.** *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves* is an updated edition of the 1973 landmark sourcebook that was a major force in the women's health-care movement. Over 90 percent of the volume has been rewritten, and nine new chapters cover body image; alcohol, drugs, and smoking; health and healing, violence against women; environmental and occupational health; new reproductive technologies; women growing older; international women's health issues; and

the pros and cons of psychotherapy. \$24.95 cloth (0-671-46087-0), \$12.95 paper (0-671-46088-9) from Simon & Schuster, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020 (84-5545).



*The Boston's Women's Health Care Book Collective, authors of The New Our Bodies, Ourselves. Proceeds from the sale of the book fund such collective projects as the Women's Health Information Center, which answers information requests and gives lectures and workshops.*

### Poverty increases among older women. A

recent update of a 1980 study of the economic status of older women in America has found the current situation to be "scarcely less bleak" than it was four years ago.

The study, prepared for the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, says the total number of elderly women has increased, as has the number living in poverty, and more elderly women are living alone than ever before.

Other findings indicate that women are disproportionately represented among the elderly poor; 17 percent of women over 65 have incomes below the poverty level, as opposed to 10 percent of the men; the median income for older women was about 56 percent of the median income for older men; and nearly half the older women have median incomes under \$1,500, as opposed to fewer than one in five men.

A 36-page softcover report of the study, titled *Older Women: The Economics of Aging*, is available for \$5.50 prepaid from the Women's Research and Education Institute, 204 4th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003.

**Fifteen thousand women** who have contributed to American history from the 16th century through the present are listed in *Women*

## Software Showcase

### An Atari-based school library circ system

The Automated Library II is a bar-code circulation system that runs on the Atari line of microcomputers. The program, designed for school libraries circulating 30 to 500 items per day, checks books in and out, compiles overdue lists, and prints class records and daily circulation summaries by Dewey Decimal numbers.

Software developer Gregory Gibbons studied the day-to-day activities of a junior high school librarian and then designed a system to automate as much of the repetitious work as possible. The program was extensively tested in a Los Angeles school for over a year before its release.

All inputs are prompted with simple English. The system is so easy to use that the test library used students to perform most of the operations.

The program produces bar codes for the books in the library and student-ID bar codes, which are entered into the computer and attached to books and student IDs. To charge out a book, simply select the "check out books" function from the menu and pass a light wand over the student's and the book's bar codes. If the student is authorized to check out books the computer will make a short beep and print "OK to check out books" on the screen. If the student is on the overdue list, the computer makes a different noise to alert the staff. The system also uses

the bar codes to handle fines and even IOUs.

At the end of the day, the librarian instructs the computer to perform a daily update, which incorporates all transactions into the database. The update takes about 15 minutes per 1,000 students, and automatically generates a new overdue list that can be printed at any time.

The program works best with 200 to 3,000 students, although a larger number of students will simply cause the program to take a little longer to update each day.

The Automated Library II runs on the Atari 800, 800XL, and 1200XL computers, and is

expected to run on Atari's new low-cost 8-bit computers as well. The system requires two disk drives, an Epson-compatible printer, and a monitor with sound. An Apple IIe version, which will also run on an Apple Imagewriter printer, is due for release this month.

The system costs \$700, including the light wand. The documentation only is available for \$30, applicable toward later purchase of the program. For more information contact Sarte Systems, 8110 Manitoba St., #202, Playa del Rey, CA 90293 (213-822-8612).

| STUDENT                  | CLASS   | BOOK                     | AUTHOR     | COPY | PRICE | DUE      | FINE  |
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*An overdue list generated by the Automated Library II. Italics mean that the book has been returned and only the fine is due.*